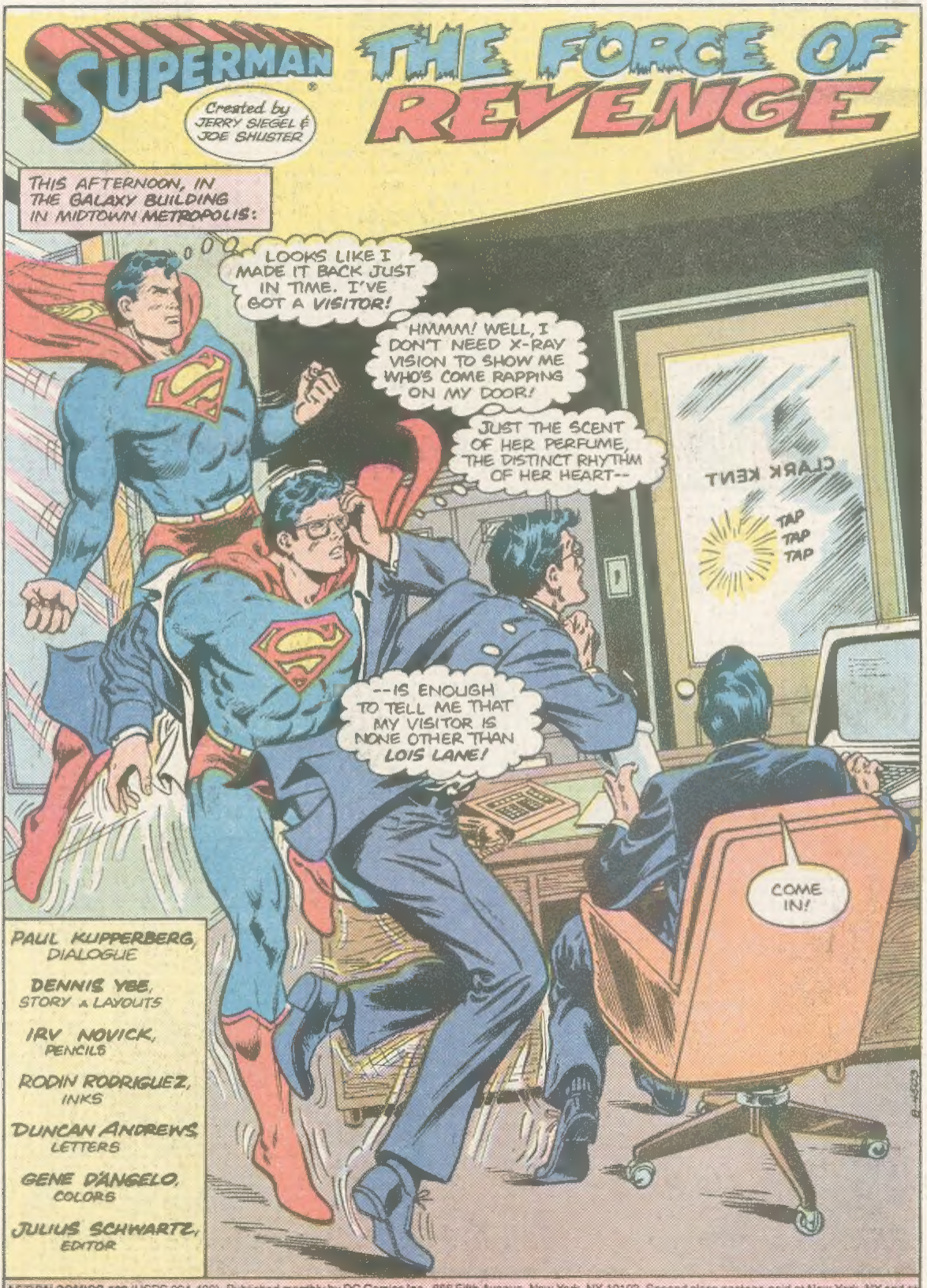
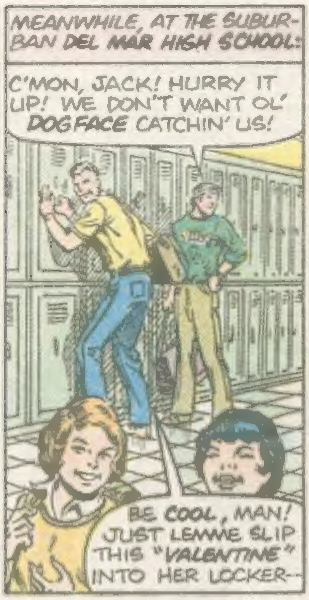
DC
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
569
75¢
CAN. 95¢
U.K. 35p
JULY 85
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERMAN MOVIE
Casting Call
ALL EARTH-BEINGS LOOK ALIKE TO ME, SUPERMAN!
YOU CHOOSE YOUR MOVIE DOUBLE!
BENDER & OKSNER
1935
50
DC
1985


SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE FORCE OF REVENGE
THIS AFTERNOON, IN THE GALAXY BUILDING IN MIDTOWN METROPOLIS:
LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT BACK JUST IN TIME. I'VE GOT A VISITOR!
HMMM! WELL, I DON'T NEED X-RAY VISION TO SHOW ME WHO'S COME RAPPING ON MY DOOR!
JUST THE SCENT OF HER PERFUME, THE DISTINCT RHYTHM OF HER HEART--
CLARK KENT
TAP TAP TAP
--IS ENOUGH TO TELL ME THAT MY VISITOR IS NONE OTHER THAN LOIS LANE!
COME IN!
PAUL KUPPERBERG, DIALOGUE
DENNIS YBE, STORY & LAYOUTS
IRV NOVICK, PENCILS
RODIN RODRIGUEZ, INKS
DUNCAN ANDREWS, LETTERS
GENE D'ANGELO, COLORS
JULIUS SCHWARTZ, EDITOR

ACTION COMICS 589 (USPS 004-480). Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $11.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1986 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company

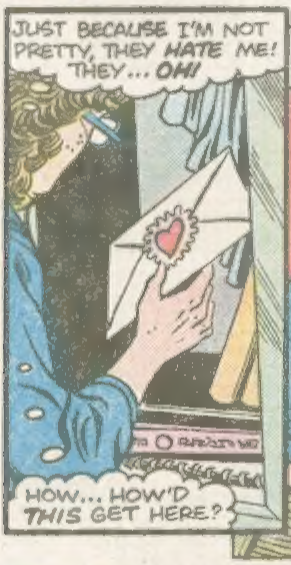
HI, CLARK. HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING ANYTHING...?
OH, HELLO, LOIS. NO, COME ON IN.
WHAT BRINGS YOU UP HERE TO TELE-VISIONLAND?
THE NEED OF AN OPINION. I JUST FINISHED A REAL ROUGH CHAPTER IN MY NEW BOOK AND WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D HAVE A LOOK AT IT.
BE GLAD TO, LOIS.
THANKS, CLARK. YOU'RE A PAL! YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE EVER IN NEED OF AN EAR OR WORD OF ADVICE--
--WELL, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M AVAILABLE. IT'S FUNNY, BUT ALL THE YEARS WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER...AND SOMEHOW, I DON'T FEEL I KNOW YOU.
DON'T BE SILLY, LOIS. YOU KNOW ME AS WELL AS ANYBODY!
EVEN LANA LANG? HOW'S IT GOING BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR CO-ANCHOR ANYWAY? THERE'S HARDLY EVER ANY OFFICE GOSSIP ABOUT YOU GUYS.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SAY, LOIS. WE'RE DOING FINE.
=SIGH= TYPICAL CLARK KENT RESPONSE --IN OTHER WORDS, NO INFO!
HOW ABOUT YOURSELF? ANY SIGNIFICANT OTHERS COME INTO YOUR LIFE LATELY?
OH, YOU KNOW ME... I'M ALWAYS TOO BUSY FOR ROMANCE. I GUESS I'VE LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT LOVE AND WORK JUST DON'T MIX WELL FOR ME!
I THINK YOU'RE WRONG, LOIS. JUST WAIT UNTIL MR. RIGHT COMES ALONG!
I THOUGHT HE HAD.
WELL, SEE YOU LATER, CLARK.


MEANWHILE, AT THE SUBURBAN DEL MAR HIGH SCHOOL:
C'MON, JACK! HURRY IT UP! WE DON'T WANT OL' DOGFACE CATCHIN' US!
BE COOL, MAN! JUST LEMME SLIP THIS "VALENTINE" INTO HER LOCKER--

"--AND THEN WE RETIRE AT A SAFE DISTANCE TO WATCH THE FUN!"
VALENTINE DAY DANCE
H-HELLO, NANCY...

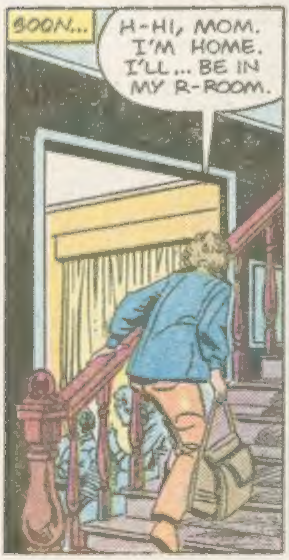
SH-SHE IGNORED ME. BUT THEN, WHY SHOULDN'T SHE? EVERYBODY ELSE DOES!
NOBODY'D WANT TO BE CAUGHT DEAD TALKING TO TINA GERBER!

I...I KNOW THEY MAKE FUN OF ME BEHIND MY BACK...THEY DON'T EVEN CARE IF I HEAR THEM!
14


JUST BECAUSE I'M NOT PRETTY, THEY HATE ME! THEY... OH!
HOW... HOW'D THIS GET HERE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S ACTUALLY A VALENTINE CARD...A...A...

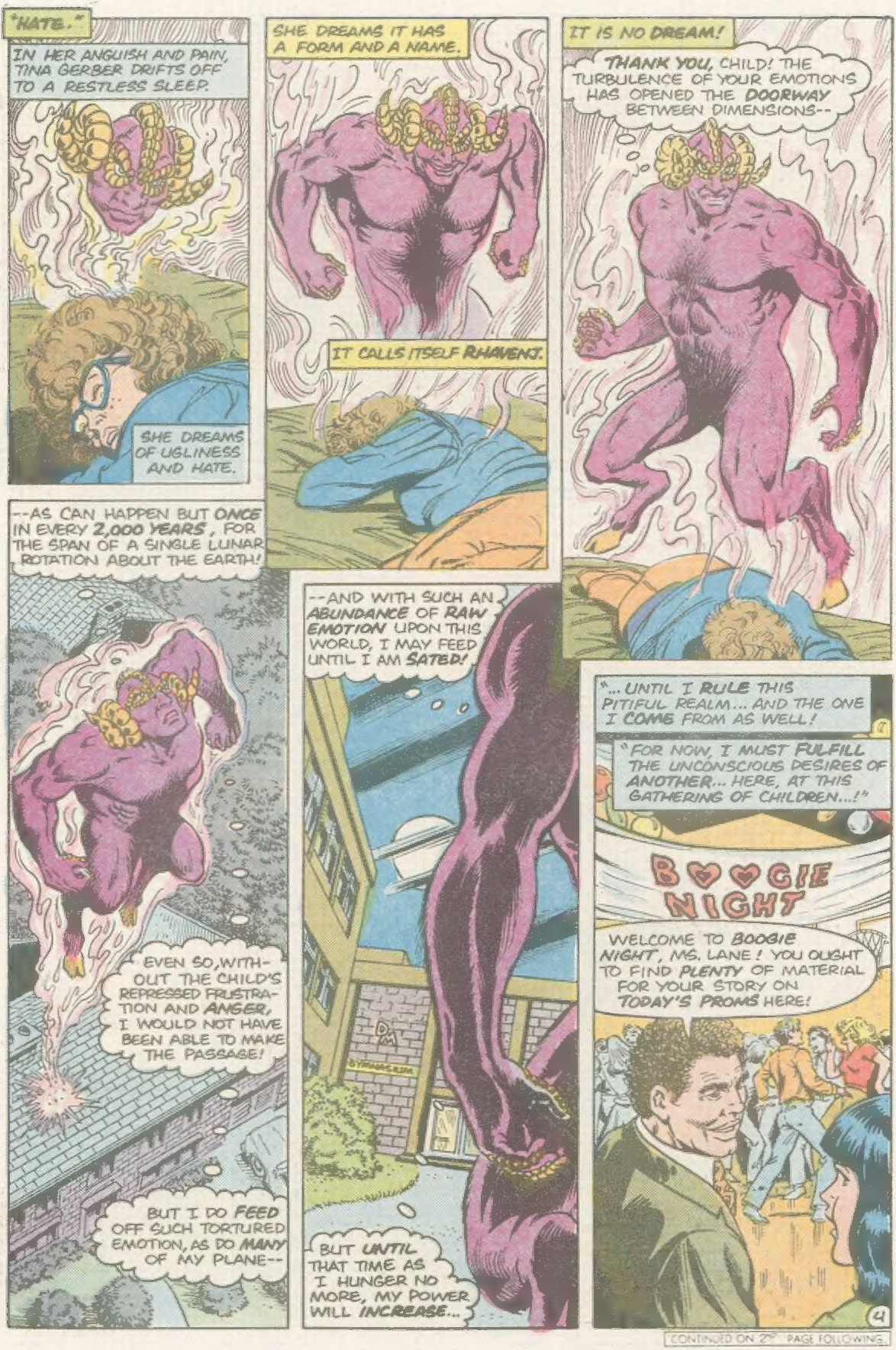
NO! SOB!
HOW COULD THEY?! I...I HATE THEM ALL!
A VALENTINE FOR THE SCHOOL BOW WOW!
ARF!
WRUFF!
WRUF!


SOON...
H-HI, MOM. I'M HOME. I'LL... BE IN MY R-ROOM.

ALL RIGHT, DEAR. I'LL CALL YOU WHEN DINNER'S READY.

SOB! THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT ME EITHER! EVERYBODY HATES THE UGLY DUCKLING...

...AND THAT'S ALL THAT I AM... SOB! EVEN I HATE ME... HATE... ME...


"HATE."
IN HER ANGUISH AND PAIN, TINA GERBER DRIFTS OFF TO A RESTLESS SLEEP.
SHE DREAMS OF UGLINESS AND HATE.
SHE DREAMS IT HAS A FORM AND A NAME.
IT CALLS ITSELF RHAVENJ.
IT IS NO DREAM!
THANK YOU, CHILD! THE TURBULENCE OF YOUR EMOTIONS HAS OPENED THE DOORWAY BETWEEN DIMENSIONS--
--AS CAN HAPPEN BUT ONCE IN EVERY 2,000 YEARS, FOR THE SPAN OF A SINGLE LUNAR ROTATION ABOUT THE EARTH!
EVEN SO, WITHOUT THE CHILD'S REPRESSED FRUSTRATION AND ANGER, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THE PASSAGE!
BUT I DO FEED OFF SUCH TORTURED EMOTION, AS DO MANY OF MY PLANE--
--AND WITH SUCH AN ABUNDANCE OF RAW EMOTION UPON THIS WORLD, I MAY FEED UNTIL I AM SATED!
BUT UNTIL THAT TIME AS I HUNGER NO MORE, MY POWER WILL INCREASE...
"...UNTIL I RULE THIS PITIFUL REALM... AND THE ONE I COME FROM AS WELL!
"FOR NOW, I MUST FULFILL THE UNCONSCIOUS DESIRES OF ANOTHER... HERE, AT THIS GATHERING OF CHILDREN...!"
BOOGIE NIGHT
WELCOME TO BOOGIE NIGHT, MS. LANE! YOU OUGHT TO FIND PLENTY OF MATERIAL FOR YOUR STORY ON TODAY'S PROMS HERE!
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

I SUPPOSE SO, MR. TYLER ... BUT PROMS SURE HAVE CHANGED SINCE MY DAY!
HEARKEN, HUMANS--HEED THE WORDS OF RHAVENJ! THERE ARE TWO PRESENT WHO HAVE DONE GRIEVOUS WRONG TO ANOTHER... AND FOR THAT SHE SHALL HAVE VENGEANCE!
OH, WOW! IS THIS PART'A THE ENTERTAINMENT OR WHAT?
SUDDENLY...
CR-RASSH!
IF... IF IT IS... I AIN'T ENTERTAINED!
MY GOD... IT'S GOING FOR THE KIDS! YOU'D BETTER GET HELP, MS. LANE! I'LL TRY TO HOLD HIM OFF!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SIZE OF THAT THING!
TYLER'S EXPECTING ME TO CALL THE POLICE, BUT THEY WON'T BE ANY GOOD AGAINST THAT MONSTER!
I KNOW JUST WHO THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR...!
YOU! YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE SOUGHT! I HAVE SEEN YOUR FACE IN HER DREAMS!
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! LEGGO!
WAP!
DO IT! DROP THE KID...OOOOFF!
FOOL! NONE MAY RESIST THE POWER OF RHAVENJ!
SLAP!
MILES AWAY FROM BELEAGUERED DEL MAR HIGH, A TELEPHONE RINGS IN THE METROPOLIS APARTMENT OF LANA LANG...
MY HANDS ARE FULL, CLARK. COULD YOU GET THAT FOR ME?
SURE, LANA. HELLO? LANA LA... HUH? LOIS! CALM DOWN, LOIS! WHAT...?

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT, LOVE! WHAT'S UP?
TROUBLE! BIG TROUBLE!
UH-OH. IT'S EVEN BIGGER THAN LOIS DESCRIBED, ACCORDING TO MY TELESCOPIC VISION!
I'M REALLY SORRY, LANA, BUT SHE ASKED ME TO SEE IF I CAN FIND SUPERMAN. IF IT WASN'T URGENT, I'D...
I... UNDERSTAND, CLARK.
THANKS, LANA! I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU ...SOMEHOW!
BLAST! WHY IS IT THAT THERE'S NEVER ANY TIME FOR ME... AND LANA?
LANA LANG IS LEFT TO WONDER THE SAME THING, LOOKING LONGINGLY TO THE STREETS BELOW.
BUT THERE ARE NO ANSWERS TO BE FOUND THERE. FOR THOSE, SHE MUST LOOK UP INTO THE SKY--
--FOR SUPERMAN!
DEL MAR HIGH:
YOU BELONG TO ME, MORTALS! I AM THE AGENT OF YOUR DOOM!
YOUR CRUELTY HAS EARNED YOU THIS END... AND NOW YOU SHALL FEED ME--
-- WITH THE RAW INTENSITY OF YOUR FEAR! I... EH?
FEEDING TIME WILL HAVE TO WAIT--
6

--UNLESS YOU CARE TO CHEW ON ME FOR A WHILE!
UFF! YOU ARE INDEED STRONG FOR A HUMAN--
--BUT A HUMAN YOU ARE NONE-THELESS--
--AND NONE THAT LIVES IS IMMUNE TO THE FORCES OF VENGEANCE!
BLAMM
IMPRESSIVE!
THOUGH HARDLY ENOUGH TO PUT ME MORE THAN TEM-PORARILY OUT OF THE FIGHT!
HE'S WAITING FOR ME, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TAKE HIM ON IN HERE... TOO MANY PEOPLE COULD GET HURT!
WHETHER HE KNOWS IT OR NOT--
7

--WE'RE TAKING THIS TO THE STREETS!
FOOOM
YOU ARE AMBITIOUS, MORTAL ... WHILE I AM MORE! I AM THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF REVENGE!
ARE YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT? WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THAT CREATURE COMES BACK!
W-WE'RE FINE, LADY... ONLY, DID YA HEAR WHAT HE SAID...?
HE SAID WE WAS... CRUEL... AND WE WERE GETTIN' PAID BACK FOR IT! D-DO YOU THINK ...?
I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK... B-BUT, YEAH...
8

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

MEANWHILE...
I CAN KEEP SPARRING WITH YOU ALL DAY IF NECESSARY, FRIEND...
... BUT WHY BOTHER WHEN I CAN END IT WITH ONE BLOW?
THWHAAM!
UH-OH! I HIT HIM HARDER THAN I THOUGHT... SENDING HIM FLYING--
"--RIGHT BACK INSIDE THE SCHOOL!"
GOOD LORD! I THOUGHT SUPERMAN WAS TAKING CARE OF HIM!
THUUD!

YOU-- THE 'MORTALS I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO DEAL WITH!
GUESS THAT ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS, GUYS. AND MEANS IT'S TIME FOR US TO GET MOVING!
TINA GERBER DREAMS ON.
HER FINGERS CLUTCH AT CRUMPLED COVERS, AND SHE DREAMS OF THEM RENDING SOFT FLESH--
--OF REVENGE!
AWAY, WOMAN! I AM HERE FOR THE OTHERS ... BUT I WILL SLAY YOU AS WELL IF YOU INTERFERE!
GASP!
BETTER FIND SOME OTHER TARGETS, RHAVEN! THE LADY'S NOT FOR SLAYING!
MMMPHFF!
THANK HEAVENS! SUPERMAN! WHERE'S HE FROM?
I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST 'IDEA, LOIS--
URRRRHHH!
--BUT WHERE HE'S FROM, HE LOOKS REAL MAD..
BUT
"..AND READY TO DO SOMETHING DRASTIC."

FOOLS! YOU MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED THIS ENCOUNTER WITH RHAVENJ... HAD YOU NOT INCURRED MY WRATH!
GREAT STARS!
FHZOT!
S-SUPERMAN ...HELP!!
AND TINA GERBER STILL DREAMS.
TOSSING, TURNING.
BACK OFF, MONSTER! IF YOU'VE HURT HER, I'LL--
HISSSSSSST
ARRRRGHH!
FEEL ME ON! AGGER AND HATRED!
LOIS! ARE YOU...?!
S-SUPERMAN
BURNING FOR VENGEANCE!

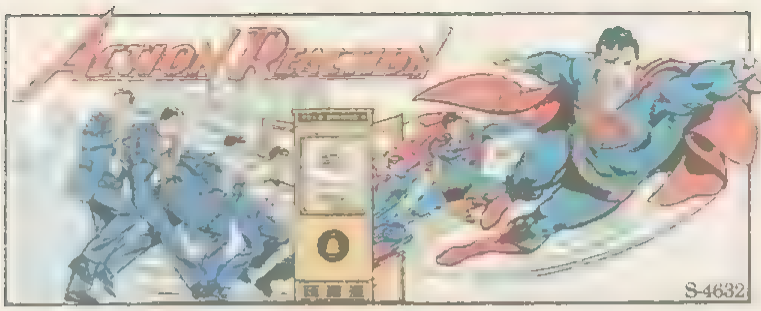
ANSWER ME, LOIS! WHAT DID HE DO TO... GREAT KRYPTON! NO!
I.. I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! MONSTERS ATTACKING A SCHOOL DANCE.. AND NOW THIS!?
OH, MAN! LOOKIT WHAT HE'S DONE!
HOW HORRIBLE!
HA HA HA! THE WOMAN HELD MUCH HATRED AND BITTERNESS IN HER HEART--
--AND IT WAS LEFT TO RHAVENJ TO UNLEASH THOSE ROILING EMOTIONS--
--SO THAT SHE MIGHT VENT HER FRUSTRATION UPON THE OBJECT OF HER HATRED!
YOUUU! YOU LEFT ME... BROKE MY HEART... AND NOW SHALL PAY!
LOIS... DON'T! RHAVENJ IS USING YOU TO ... UHRK!
SSSSSSU-PERMAN!
I HAVE BEEN USED BY NONE SAVE YOU, SUPERMAN! YOU SPURNED MY LOVE.. AND TURNED IT TO HATE! NOW DIE, SUPERMAN. DIE!
CAN'T BREAK HER HOLD ... HER STRENGTH COMES FROM RHAVENJ'S MAGIC! SHE COULD... KILL ME!
LOIS ...NO!
12

YESSS, WOMAN! TIGHTEN YOUR GRIP... FEEL THE LIFE BEING SQUEEZED FROM HIM BY YOUR FINGERS! REVEL IN IT... CELEBRATE YOUR VENGEANCE! HA HA HA HA!!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT LOIS, BUT IT MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HER!
WE ONCE MEANT SO MUCH TO ONE ANOTHER... HELD SUCH LOVE. HOW CAN IT END LIKE THIS?
TINA GERBER FEELS THE MAN OF STEEL'S THROAT BENEATH HER FINGERS IN HER DREAMS. IT IS A GOOD, REWARDING FEELING!
YES-- STRUGGLE, SUPERMAN! MAKE MY VICTORY ALL THE SWEETER!
N-NO, LOIS! I...I WON'T FIGHT YOU ANYMORE!
Y-YOU MUST! I . I . HATE YOU...
BUT ONCE YOU LOVED ME, LOIS! SOMEWHERE, DEEP INSIDE YOU, THAT LOVE STILL LIVES!
SOB! NO.. THE LOVE IS... IS DEAD! YOU... KILLED IT!
WE ENDED IT TOGETHER, LOIS! WE SAW IT DIDN'T WORK, THAT IT WASN'T RIGHT FOR US!
BUT IT NEVER DIED COMPLETELY, LOIS. IT COULDN'T!
DON'T YOU SEE, LOIS? HATRED CAN TURN ANYBODY INTO A MONSTER--
--BUT THAT LOVE... EVEN AFTER IT'S FLED, IS WHAT MAKES US HUMAN... AND WHAT KEEPS US THAT WAY!
OH, GOD! SOB! HOLD ME, SUPERMAN...
HOLD ME...

DON'T WORRY, LOIS I'VE GOT YOU NOW I WON'T LET GO... NOT AS LONG AS YOU NEED ME!
AIIIIEEEE! STOP IT! RHAVENJ COMMANDS YOU TO STOP!
YOU MUST FEEL HATRED! HATRED! I CANNOT EXIST WHERE THERE IS LOVE.
... IT OVERWHELMS ALL ELSE IT IT.. BURNS ME.
I.. AM... RHAVENJ I AM... HATE...
...ALL... BOW.. BEFORE.. ME .FOR ...HATRED... IS...
FOREVER
THERE IS THE SCENT OF BRIMSTONE IN THE AIR, AND IN THE INSTANT BEFORE THE NIGHT BREEZE SENDS IT DISSIPATING INTO THE NIGHT--
THEN THAT TOO IS GONE BUT THE LOVE IT HERALDS REMAINS.

THE DREAM ENDS. TINA GERBER AWAKENS...
STOP! N-NO... DON'T! I... I... HUH?
OH, WOW! TALK ABOUT NIGHTMARES--! BUT THAT'S MY LIFE, I GUESS... THE ONLY EXCITEMENT I'LL EVER HAVE IS IN MY DREAMS!
STILL... I NEVER KNEW HOW MUCH I HATED THE KIDS IN SCHOOL FOR 'IGNORING ME LIKE THEY DO...
BUT I'D NEVER WANT TO HURT THEM FOR IT!
WOULD I--?
AWW, IT WAS JUST A DREAM! NOTHING LIKE THAT COULD REALLY HAPPEN!
OH! THE PHONE... HAH! MUST BE A WRONG NUMBER! ALL THE KIDS ARE AT THE DANCE.
AND EVEN IF THEY WEREN'T, NOBODY'D BE CALLING ME!
H-HELLO...?
ER... TINA? LOOK, THIS IS TONY, TINA, AND I.. WELL, I WANNA APOLOGIZE FOR THIS AFTERNOON.
IF... IF THIS IS ANOTHER OF YOUR JOKES, TONY, IT'S NOT FUNNY, SO STOP...
NO JOKE, TINA.. NOT AFTER THAT MONSTER NEARLY CREAMED US AT THE DANCE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED--
-- BUT ONE THING I DO KNOW... WE WOULD'VE DESERVED IT! FRIENDS, TINA--?

AN HOUR LATER IN MIDTOWN METROPOLIS...
HERE YOU ARE, LOIS! I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE WANTING TO GET DOWNSTAIRS AND WRITE UP THE STORY FOR THE PLANET'S FIRST EDITION...
I. I GUESS I'D BETTER, SUPERMAN. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR WHAT YOU DID. I...
L-LOIS...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE WERE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS. UNTIL NOW, I...I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I...MISSED IT
THAT'S FUNNY ...ME, TOO... DARLING.
OH, GOD! WHAT'RE WE DOING? IT...IT'LL NEVER WORK!
MAYBE IT CAN, LOIS... IF WE'RE BOTH WILLING TO WORK FOR IT!
CAN'T YOU SEE, SUPERMAN... THE PROBLEMS THAT DROVE US APART ARE STILL THERE! WE'D BOTH HAVE TO CHANGE IF WE WANTED TO BE TOGETHER
...AND NEITHER OF US IS WILLING TO DO THAT ...TO BECOME WHO WE AREN'T FOR THE SAKE OF THE OTHER! NOR SHOULD WE...
...UNLESS WE WANT TO END UP HATING EACH OTHER FOR IT! MAYBE WE CAN BE FRIENDS, ONCE THE HURT GOES AWAY--
--BUT IT CAN NEVER BE THE SAME AS IT WAS. G-GOOD NIGHT, SUPERMAN...
GOOD NIGHT, LOIS...
...AND GOOD-BYE ...MY DARLING...
THE END



DC Comics Inc
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

Jenette Kahn President and Publisher
Dick Giordano Vice Pres Executive Editor
Julius Schwartz Editor
Neal Pozner Managing Editor
Tom Ziegler Managing Editor
Pat Gastineau Editorial Coordinator
Bob Rozakis Production Manager
Joe Orlando Vice Pres-Editorial Director
Paul Levitz Vice Pres-Operations
Bruce Bristow Marketing Director
Arthur Gutowitz Treasurer

Dear Julie and Bob,

ACTION #565 was yet another crackerjack issue and sustained the winning streak that *Superman* books have been enjoying lately.

"The Wizard City Warrior" was really good! Although not dazzlingly original, Mort Todd's story was interesting, colorful, and fast-paced, with enough action and adventure to satisfy anybody. It made excellent use of *Superman's* past history and the characters of the *Superman* family. (Jimmy's archaeologist dad hasn't been seen in a long time.) I liked the human motivation of the criminal, and the timeless quality of the story (with a few minor changes it could have taken place in the 30's or 40's). The downbeat closing panel was also quite good. I look forward to more thoughtful, well-written stories by Mr. Todd.

Kurt Schaffenberger's art was great! I'm totally enthralled by the outpouring of powerful yet beautiful artwork by Mr. Schaffenberger that has appeared in the latest *Superman* books. Every time I pick up a new *ACTION* or *SUPERMAN* and see his impressive art, I know it's going to be a worthwhile issue. I love this guy! The "WHOOSSH" effect (see page 13) was terrific stuff! More Schaffenberger art, please! Anthony Tollin's colors were excellent, too.

The *Ambush Bug* 8-pager came off less like a story and more like a coming attractions trailer for the upcoming *A.B.* mini-series, but it was funny anyway. The way *Bug* keeps getting *Supie's* goat is hilarious. The Big Red S obviously didn't care to have his less-than-glorious past adventures brought up again. But *A.B.* had to take his lumps this time around too, and it was especially good when his "guardian angel" referred to him as "a big overgrown cockroach"! The Keith Giffen-Bob Oskner artwork here and on the cover was very enjoyable (I was most intrigued by Giffen's *Batman*) and I'm anxious to see their work in the mini-series, which promises to be 4 issues of unbridled insanity.

The *Superman* books are rapidly becoming DC's best offering. The stories are getting better and better, and the art is excellent! I'll be watching closely in the coming months to see if you can maintain this striking level of excellence. *Supie's* future looks bright indeed.

DAVID PULLEYBACK
Box 103
Denver, IA 50622

We're sure Supes would agree ... if he could just get Ambush Bug to leave him alone!—BR

*****

Dear Bob and Julie,

I am ashamed to admit that I bought *ACTION* #565 solely for Ambush Bug. I am embarrassed to admit that I enjoyed the Bug's appearances.

KEITH DRAWBAUGH
4003 Old Orchard Rd
York, PA 17402

Why be embarrassed by it? None of our other readers are!—BR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

Well, you started out right. I'm a devoted fan, and buy *ACTION* anyway, but if I wasn't, your March cover would have been enough to catch me. Why, you might ask? Was it the fact that it was brilliantly rendered by Giffen and Oskner? No. Was it because it once again featured the erstwhile *Ambush Bug*? Nay. Nor was it *Batman* or even *Supes* himself? I think by now you've guessed it; the reason is (drumroll) *WONDER WOMAN!* Now, there are probably a lot of laughs out there, but I don't care. The Princess of Power is my favorite character, and even though *Ambush's* statement on the bottom of page 6 hurt a die-hard fan like myself, it was essentially true. I think that if more people would just take a look at the Amazon's adventures, they would be greatly surprised. Dan Mishkin is a top-notch writer and he's taking the Amazon to highs she has not seen in some time, if at all. No, this isn't a plug from the *WW* staff, just me trying to see my favorite heroine's sales figures increase. Now, if I can just get this into print.

As for the "Wizard City Warrior," all I can say is this: YUCK! Nothing personal, guys, but I didn't like *Superboy's* defunct title and I don't like that same style here. Kurt Schaffenberger's art isn't dynamic enough to fit the hero. He makes *Supes* look wimpy, which he just shouldn't be. Especially annoying is panel 5 on page 4. I half expected him to have warts and go "ribit"!

Now, don't get me wrong, for I do like the direction you've taken, just not most of your choice for artists on most stories. I think *SUPERMAN* is terrific, but I don't think his potential is being used to the fullest. I don't recall reading any of Mort Todd's scripts, but I think there was a reason that the Wizard City was buried. Let's just hope it's for good, though I won't count on it. Not much seems to stay gone in comics anymore.

Thank Goodness the *Ambush Bug* hasn't stayed gone long. He is one of the most original characters to come from the Man of Steel's titles, and we have Mr. Giffen to thank for that. "Sell Out or Manna from Mando" was terrific! I applaud the non-usage of the *Titans*, especially on the cover. There's enough of them everywhere else. I'm probably the only one that thinks so, no? I eagerly await the *Ambush Bug* mini-series. It's destined to be a hit!

MARK JONES
N. 806 Park St
Colfax, WA 99111

Destined? #2 is now on sale .. and it's already a hit!—BR

*****

Dear Ha! Ha! Julie

Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! *Ambush Bug!* Ho! Ho! Great! Ha! Ha! Just great! Ho! Ho! Loved it! Ha! Ha! Can't wait! Ha! Ha! Mini-series! Ha! Ha! Ha!

DAVID HA! HA! HA! MOLINA
208 Starr St
Brooklyn, NY 11237

Hah! You liked it, hunh?—BR

*****

Dear Editor,

Ambush Bug has got to be one of the greatest creations since the Big S himself. *Ambush Bug* is in the tradition of Al Capp's *Li'l Abner*, which I do not have to tell you is one of the greatest comics of all time. Both *Abner* and *Ambush* have a reality all

to themselves. For example, they can talk to their creators. *Abner* called up AL and disagreed with him concerning how the strip was going. *Ambush* goes out and tries to recruit others for his mini-series. If this keeps up, *Ambush Bug* is going to squeeze *Superman* out of his own book! I am recommending *ACTION COMICS* to all my friends who read comics and have all but given up on super-heroes who appear in non-direct sales titles. I want them to give *ACTION* a try because it rivals the strengths I find in alternate comics.

The *SUPERMAN* story was pretty good, a rather standard of the type which I grew up on in the mid 60's—a good solid story, good art, self-contained. I'll admit that when I heard that Marv Wolfman was going to leave *SUPERMAN*, and all the loose ends of the sub-plots were going to be tied up, I was rather disappointed for I thought that DC was going to neglect its cornerstone in its efforts to move ahead.

Two more quick comments. The cover, by Giffen and Oskner, was great, a Siegel and Shuster style *Superman*, a great *Batman*, a fine *Wonder Woman*, and a letter cover balloon which worked. Second—When are we going to see *Ambush Bug: The Movie?*

MARK RYAN
10236 Monarch Dr
St. Louis, MO 63136

Never, if our next correspondent has anything to say about it.—BR

*****

Dear Sirs.

I have been a subscriber to *ACTION COMICS* and *SUPERMAN* for many years. Never in my life have I seen anything as stupid as *Ambush Bug*. He is boring and not funny. Please do not make *Superman* fans suffer any longer—kill *Ambush Bug* or I will kill my subscription to these magazines.

AUSTIN MCLEAN
1829 Moores River Drive
Lansing, MI 48910

Needless to say, Austin, you are a member of a minute minority. We'll presume you aren't rushing out to buy the AMBUSH BUG mini-series. But take heart—if AB does really well, he may get his own quarterly series... and you won't have to worry about him appearing in these pages again. (That's almost a good enough reason to go out and buy the mini-series, isn't it?)—BR

*****

Dear Mr. Rozakis (and all the buggy folk there),

I have included with my letter a picture of what an *Ambush Bug* really looks like. Tell Giffen to get it right next time. There's no excuse for this!

Re: *ACTION* #565. Ahem. When is the Peabody, Dicker, and Pending mini-series coming out? Keith Giffen's satire was not as uproariously outrageous as it has been previously, but it was quite masterful in a subtle, quiet way. (No, it wasn't—quiet, Dicker!) Is this man a satirical cornucopia? Can we expect an "Uh-Oh Squad" mini-series? A guest-appearance by the Inarticulate Bug? Anyway, if you're all *Byrned*-out like I am, let's hear it for the Giffer! Uh-oh.

Ending of letter: More *Ambush Bug!*

KEITH L. PARTAIN
Tulsa, Okla

Picture? Was there a picture with this letter? Oh ... the Bug opened it himself, eh? So much for the picture.—BR

*****

Dear Mr. Giffen,

Re: "Sellout" in *ACTION* #565.

AAARRRGGGHH!

Thank you.

JEFF VOLPE
442 Gatewood Ct.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

You're welcome.—BR

Dear Julie and Bob,

The *Ambush Bug* feature in *ACTION* #565 was hilarious! *A.B.*'s jabs and jokes are SUPER! The *Bug* has my vote for the funniest hero of the decade—he's great! Please don't leave him out of *ACTION* after the limited series is over, for I want to see him make guest appearances in these hallowed pages as often as possible! Keith is the most offbeat originally funny artist and writer I've ever seen or read! I wish him and *Ambush Bug* continued success.

JEFF MITCHELL
Rte 1, Box 154
Rush City, MN 55069

*****

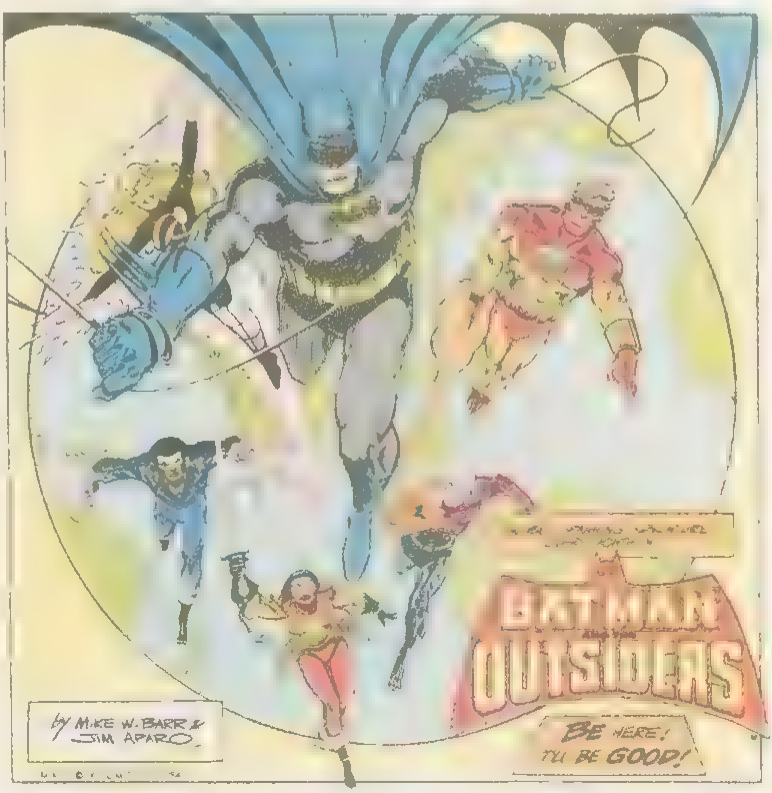
Dear Julie,

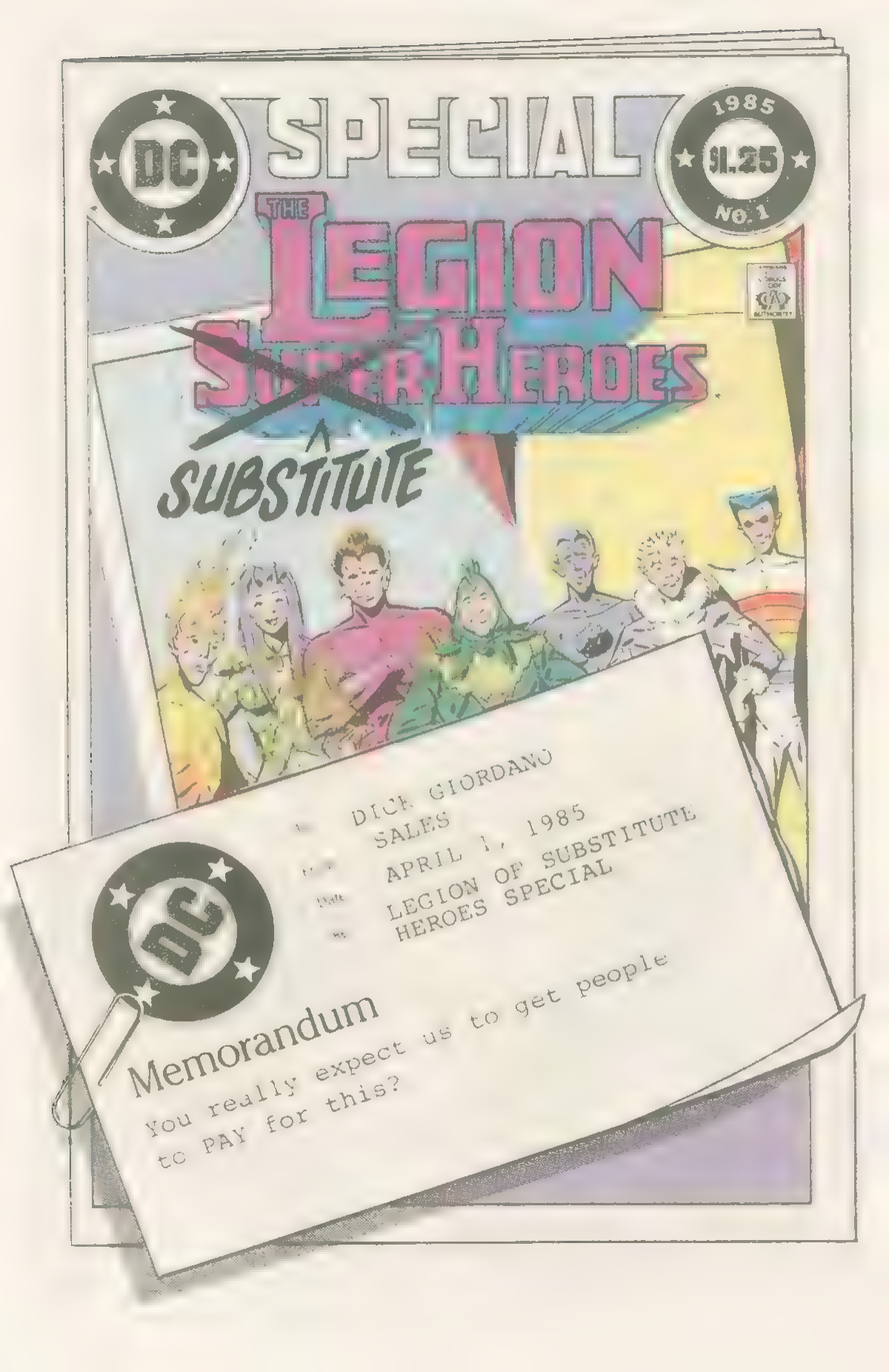
Here's an idea for a new super-hero to use in the *Superman* books. He would be incredibly powerful, unbelievably intelligent, super-serious, amazingly skilled, and the greatest super-hero in the entire universe.

The *Bizarro Ambush Bug!*

GLENN HAUMAN
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

And on that *note, we'll take our leave till next issue, reminding you to "Look, up in the sky..."—Bob Rozakis*




DC
SPECIAL
1985
$1.25
NO. 1
THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
A SUBSTITUTE
DC
Memorandum
DICK GIORDANO
SALES
APRIL 1, 1985
LEGION OF SUBSTITUTE HEROES SPECIAL
You really expect us to get people to PAY for this?

HUNDREDS OF OTHERS STAND BETWEEN ME
... DANIEL GLARUS, ASPIRING ACTOR
MICHAEL J. WOLFF
WRITER
HOWARD BENDER
PENCILLER
PABLO MARCOS
INKER
Gaspar
LETTERER
GENE DANGELO
CASTING CALL

AT THE TOP OF THE HOUR IS THE SAME MOB SCENE WHICH HAS GREETED THE METROPOLIS CENTER HOTEL FOR TWO DAYS NOW.
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, DRESSED IN SUPERMAN UNIFORMS, HAVE BROUGHT HALLUS STREET TO A STANDSTILL.
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE M'VORN RACE--
--WHICH HAS BEEN HOVERING OVER THE HOTEL ALL THIS TIME.
METROPOLIS CENTER HOTEL
MEMBERS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE PRESS HAVE MET WITH THE M'VORN AND HAVE CONFIRMED THE RUMORS WHICH BROUGHT THE ALIENS TO EARTH.
THESE RUMORS HAVE BROUGHT ACTORS AND ACTRESSES FROM ALL OVER EARTH TO THE HOTEL.
HERE, WITH A LIVE REPORT, IS CULTURAL REPORTER, LOUIS PASTRENGO.
I'M HERE WITH TUFTUA'DL-- THE M'VORN FIRST MINISTER FOR PLEASURABLY STIMULATING OPTICAL RESULTS.
MINISTER TUFTUA'DL, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE EXPLAIN TO OUR AUDIENCE WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME--?

AS THESE GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS SHOW, OUR PLANET WAS SAVED FROM A PLAGUE BY SUPERMAN, ROUGHLY THREE DE
OUR RACE HAS DECIDED TO COMMEMORATE OUR SALVATION BY PRODUCING AN AUDIO/VIDEO REPLICATION OF THE EVENT...WHAT YOUR SPECIES CALLS A "MOVIE."
BUT, SINCE OUR RACE HAS NO BIPEDAL SPECIES--
--WE HAVE HAD TO TRAVEL HERE TO FIND A SUITABLE TERRAN TO PORTRAY YOUR MAN OF STEEL!
IT'S THIS PART OF THE M'YORN MISSION TO EARTH THAT HAS CAUSED THE LARGEST PROBLEM, WHAT WITH HALLUS STREET BECOMING FLOODED WITH WOULD-BE MOVIE STARS!
THE SITUATION HAS BECOME SO POTENTIALLY AWKWARD THAT THE ALIENS HAVE SENT OUT A DISTRESS CALL FOR PROFESSIONAL HELP IN THE PERSON OF --
SUPERMAN
HERE HE COMES!
SEE--! I LOOK JUST LIKE HIM!
I SOUND LIKE HIM!
ALL I NEED IS A LITTLE MAKEUP!

I CAN'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS IS ACTUALLY GOING ON!
TRUTHFULLY? A HERO SHOULD BE USED TO FACSIMILES!
I MEAN, YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A BIT MORE SPECIFIC IN YOUR REQUEST FOR SOMEONE TO PORTRAY ME. NINE-TENTHS OF THAT CROWD OUT THERE IS TOTALLY WRONG!
OH--?
WE HAVE STUDIED THE TERRAN RACE. FRANKLY, FROM WHERE WE SPRANG, IF YOU HAVE SEEN A SINGLE BIPED WITH TWO MANIPULATIVE LIMBS AND AN UPPER SENSORY TURRET--
--YOU HAVE SEEN THEM ALL!
ATTIRE ANY OF THEM IN A BLUE COSTUME AND RED CAPE AND WHO WOULD KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?
YOU'RE THE OWNER OF THIS HOTEL, MR. GAGE. WHAT KIND OF A DEAL HAVE THEY MADE WITH YOU?
NOT BAD, NOT BAD AT ALL, SUPERMAN. THE M'VORN PAID FOR THIS ENTIRE FLOOR OF ROOMS WELL IN ADVANCE!
THE ROUND TERRAN WITH THE PROTECTIVE COLORATION SPEAKS THE TRUTH. HIS REMUNERATION HAS BEEN GENEROUS.
AND WHAT ARE THEY PAYING YOU WITH, MR. GAGE?

THIS! THEY ASSURE ME IT'S LEGAL TENDER ON THEIR WORLD!
AND ONLY 17% FISSIONABLE. GOOD AT BILLIONS OF RANDOM-SPECIE CONVERTERS IN AT LEAST FIFTY STAR-SYSTEMS.
PU!! "ONLY 17% FISSION-ABLE," HE SAYS.
SUPERMAN, OVER HERE, PLEASE!
I WAS IN HOLLYWOOD IN 1978 DURING THE BIG ONE! THIS MOB IS ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING UGLY!
SO IT LOOKS. SOMETHING'S GOT TO BE DONE AND FAST!
I SAW THE WINDOW SUPERMAN FLEW INTO. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SWOOP IN AT FULL SPEED AND THE JOB IS MINE!
I'M ALL SET TO GO UP AND AWAY! PRESSURIZED HYDROGEN PEROXIDE FUEL... 680 KILOGRAMS OF THRUST...
HSSSSSSS
5

OF!
BLAST THESE CHEAP WAR-SURPLUS HARNESS STRAPS! @@ !!!
WOOOSH
AND AS THE CAREENING ROCKET-PACK UNEXPECTEDLY FINDS ITS TARGET!...
VROOSH!!
GREAT KRYPTON!
HOLY SMOKE!
BONG
PING
WHAT FASCINATING, TERRAN CUSTOMS!
GEECH! THIS JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MY DAY!
BONG!
PEW!
BONG!
MORE SMOKE THAN FLAME! STILL, IN AN OLD BUILDING LIKE THIS, IT WON'T TAKE MUCH TO START A BIG FIRE! AND ONE OF THOSE TANKS IS STILL PRESSURIZED!
A BIT OF SUPER-COLD TREATMENT WILL KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL UNTIL I MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS ALL RIGHT!
WHOOSH
ICE
MINISTER, ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BREATHE THIS?
IT IS DECORATIVE. MOST OF THIS PLANET'S LARGER CITIES CONTAIN COLORED AIR.
6

LISTEN, COMPANIONS! IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE OUR CENTENARY THEME SONG!
YES, BUT FROM WHERE--?
KOFF! HACK KOFF! KOFF!
AMAZING! IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS TERRAN IS RECITING THE SORT OF POETRY MY UNCLE WROTE AFTER HE HAD THE ACCIDENT!
KOFF... WHEEZE... KOFF...
I DON'T KNOW IF THE ALIENS WERE IN ANY DANGER, BUT THE THREAT IS OVER!
NOW TO SEE WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN MY ABSENCE...
SUCCESS, SUPERMAN! RIGHT UNDER OUR VERY VENTRAL SPINE CLUSTERS WE HAVE FOUND THE PERFECT PERSON TO PORTRAY YOU IN OUR PROJECT!
THIS... FELLOW?! WHO IS HE...?
I'M MICHAEL BETKER SNORT! WITH THE WAUGH LITTLE THEATER. PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, SUPERMAN!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOT RIGHT NOW. ;CHOKE!; I RAN INTO A BOX OF MAKE UP WHICH SOMEONE LEFT IN THE HALLWAY. ;HACK!;
I'M HEAVILY ALLERGIC TO MAKE UP OF ANY KIND. ;COUGH!;
;WHEEZE... ;SNORT;...
AN ACTOR ALLERGIC TO MAKE UP--?
I AM THRILLED! I COULD NOT HAVE MADE A BETTER CHOICE!
BUT HIS PHYSICAL APPEARANCE-- HE LOOKS NO MORE LIKE ME THAN--
;SNORT; SNIFF SNIFF ;
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. ALL ALIEN EARTHMEN LOOK ALIKE TO US!
TO OUR SENSES, HE IS YOUR PERFECT DOUBLE!
AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, HE IS THE FIRST ALIEN WE HAVE MET ON THIS WORLD WHO CAN ACCURATELY MIMIC OUR VOCAL PATTERNS!
WITH JUST A BIT OF TRAINING, I AM SURE HE CAN BE TAUGHT OUR LANGUAGE!
WELL, MICHAEL, THE M'VORN ARE CONFIDENT YOU CAN PLAY THE ROLE OF SUPERMAN. HOW ABOUT YOU?
IT'S THE ROLE OF A LIFETIME! I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!
WELL, GOOD LUCK--AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU--
;SNIFFLE. ; DO YOU HAPPEN TO ;WHEEZE; HAVE A COLD TABLET?
The End
8

GUEST MEANWHILE...

Dear Mr. Giordano,

The comics industry often seems to me to lack a sense of community. People in the various comic companies (and their fans) seem to delight in sniping at each other, whether in good-natured banter or more mean-spirited criticism. The latter bothers me; partly it's simple sportsmanship—one hates to see players or fans belittling another team simply because they ought to show more class—but it's more than that.

It seems to me short-sighted for comics companies and their readers to see themselves as engaged in a cut-throat competition with other companies, in which anything that hurts the other side helps them. I don't believe that's the case, for several reasons:

First, I don't think economic competition between comic companies is really significant. I have no statistics to support my view, but based on the people I see, I think that comic-buying, whether a mother buying for an eight-year-old or a thirty-year-old buying for himself, is elastic: if there are more good comics, then people buy more comics. People don't buy **FANTASTIC FOUR** at the expense of **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**, they buy both.

Nor do I think that the public generally attaches values to particular companies. People buy good **DC** comics because they are good, not because they're **DC**. And while a good **DC** comic may lure readers into buying another **DC** comic once or twice, if that comic isn't good they won't continue buying it. The apparent rivalry between **DC** and Marvel (or any other company) exists more in insiders' eyes than in reality: very few people will refuse to buy a good comic from the company that they consider the lesser one, any more than they'll buy a bad comic out of simple loyalty to the publisher.

The real competition a comics company faces is not with other comics companies but with other products: records, movies, video games, etc. And in this competition the comics industry stands together. Most sales outlets don't stock only Marvel or only **DC** comics—they stock both. If a person buys a comic and likes it, he or she is more likely to buy other comics, and not just of that company's. People reading **ALPHA FLIGHT** don't say "Gosh, that's a good Marvel comic," they say, "That's a good comic." The next comic they buy may be **SWAMP THING** or **AMERICAN FLAGG!**, but it will be a comic, not a record or video game. Thus, the success of **ALPHA FLIGHT** helps not only Marvel but also **DC** and First, because in the long run it increases sales of all good comics. It doesn't help bad comics—nothing can make someone regularly buy a comic he or she doesn't like; but as long as a company produces some good comics it will benefit from the existence of all other good comics.

Thus it's distressing to hear **DC** staffers put down **X-MEN**, a fine comic that deserves its success, because it's short-sighted. It's just as distressing and short-sighted to hear Marvel fans pan **TEEN TITANS** as an **X-MEN** take-off; it isn't, but even if it were, it's still a fine comic. It's almost laughable that all of these people who claim to love comics spend so much time putting down comics. One can like Marvel comics without disliking **DC** and vice versa; blanket criticism simply reflects on the prejudiced critic.

Obviously, this isn't directed to you or most comics pros; many comics people, of which you are the most notable, are refreshingly conscious of the interests of the comics medium as a whole, free with due praise and leery of mean-spirited niggling. It's directed more towards some fans and staffers of both companies whose attitudes are less constructive. Loyalty to a company that produces comics one likes is both natural and praiseworthy, but it needn't translate into blanket rejection of other companies, their people, and their products. I don't know of any comics company that produces no good comics, nor any that produces no bad ones; however, I think it's time for comics readers and creators alike to realize that there is such a thing as the comic medium's interest, an interest that is not served by pettiness and spite. A good comic, no matter who produces it, benefits everyone who creates, sells, or reads comics.

Thanks for listening.

Gayden Wren
52 Willow Street
Garden City, NY 11530

DC CHECK LIST

ON SALE THE WEEK OF APRIL 25

☐ **Tales of the Legion 325:** Do only five beings make up the Dark Circle, the deadliest menace in the galaxy?
☐ **Action Comics 569:** Two stories, including Lois Lane turned monster!
☐ **Detective Comics 552:** Batman and Green Arrow in two terrific stories!
☐ **World's Finest Comics 317:** Batman and Superman versus Cheapjack for the life of a mobster's daughter!
☐ **All-Star Squadron 47:** The origin of Dr. Fate!
☐ **Arion 33:** The Magic Odyssey concludes with the fight to the death against Dark Majistra!
☐ **Ambush Bug 2:** An experiment with *a cute* koala bear turns into an *acute* problem!